This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A seat belt system comprising:

a composite cable assembly comprising a flexible cable having a first and a second end, one of the first and second ends connectable to a first mechanism and the other of the first and second ends connectable to a second mechanism, the cable comprising at least one~~a~~ single strand of wires, ~~or formed of a plurality of adjacent strands, the configuration of the wire forming~~ each strand having intra-wire spaces ~~between adjacent ones of the wires~~ and ~~the assembly including an easily melted alloy or resin~~ a fill material ~~filling~~ disposed within the intra-wire spaces along a first length of the at least one strand, the fill material configured to changes the amount of energy needed to bend the cable in comparison to a cable having no fill material within the intra-wire spaces, wherein the at least one strand is dipped in a liquid form of the fill material which flows in the intra-wire spaces without the need of pressurizing the fill material, the fill material later in time hardens to form the composite cable assembly.

2. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 1 wherein the first mechanism to which the cable is connected includes a housing having a movable ~~is one of an anchor and a~~ piston associated with a pretensioner and the second mechanism to which the cable is connected is one of a buckle and a buckle-connecting member, wherein the first length of the at least one strand is remote from the housing.

3. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 1 wherein the fill material also covers the exterior of the cable and is of a predetermined ~~determinable~~ thickness.

4. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 3 wherein ~~the thickness of~~ the fill material has a predetermined thickness ~~is variable~~ and wherein the energy needed to bend the cable varies with the thickness, resin or alloy of the fill material.

5. (Original) The system as defined in Claim 1 wherein the fill material includes a molten solder.

6. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 1 wherein the fill material includes ~~one of~~ a) an alloy ~~of~~comprising molten: lead, tin, silver, bismuth, copper, antimony, selenium~~,~~; b) a resin~~s~~ or c) an epoxy~~epoxies~~.

7. (Original) The system as defined in Claim 1 wherein the cable is configured as a component of a buckle pretensioner, the pretensioner including a curved path about which the cable is pulled, one end of the cable extending from the pretensioner connected to a buckle, and wherein the fill material is located at least between the curved path and the buckle.

8. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 7 wherein the cable assembly includes a plurality of strands with intra-strand spaces between each strand. ~~cable includes multi-strand, multi-cable.~~

9. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 8 wherein the fill material fills intra-wire spaces as well as the intra-strand spaces.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A vehicle occupant restraint system, including:

a seat belt pretensioner comprising

a curved cable guide and a flexible cable, having an initial ~~determinable~~ measurable flexibility, the cable including stiffening means for increasing the stiffness of a selected portion of the cable above the ~~determinable~~ initial measurable stiffness to enhance energy dissipating properties of the cable when bent;

and wherein the stiffening means includes a solder that spreads through intra-wire spaces in the cable and which covers the wires via capillary and wherein the solder is pliable within a temperature range of –40 degrees F and 120 degrees F..

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A vehicle occupant restraint system, including:

a seat belt pretensioner comprising

a curved cable guide;

a flexible composite cable disposed about the cable guide, the composite cable comprising at least one strand of wires, the wire stand having intra-wire spaces, and an energy dissipating coating filling the intra-wire spaces, wherein the at least one wire strand is dipped in a liquid form of the coating which flows in the intra-wire spaces, the coating later, in time, hardening to form the composite cable assembly;

first means for moving the cable about the cable guide;

wherein the at least one wire strand ~~cable~~ has a determinable level of ~~determinable flexibility~~rigidity, ~~and wherein the cable includes energy dissipating means for dissipation of energy, the energy dissipating means located adjacent wires or fibers of the cable, and~~ wherein the energy dissipating coating is ~~absorbing material~~ configured to increase the level of rigidity of the composite cable compared to the rigidity of the at least one wire strand thereby taking more energy ~~resist the bending of the cable as the cable is forced~~ to bend ~~about~~ a straight section of the composite cable about the cable guide in response to movement of the first means.

14. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 13 wherein the energy dissipating coating ~~means includes stiffening means for increasing the stiffness of a~~ is applied to a selected portion of the cable between the cable guide and a seat belt buckle~~above the determinable stiffness~~.

15. (Currently amended) The system as defined in Claim 14 wherein the ~~stiffening means~~coating is ~~a first material impregnated~~ within a portion of the wire strand cable initially positioned in the vicinity of the cable guide.

16. (Currently amended) A method of making the ~~flexible cable~~ system of Claim 1, ~~selectively more stiff,~~ the method comprising the following steps:

a) providing a length of wire strand~~cable~~, the wire strand ~~cable~~ having a ~~determinable~~ measurable stiffness to bending;

b) ~~impregnating~~ dipping a portion of the wire strand ~~cable~~ into~~with~~ a liquid material capable of filling the inter-wire spaces by capillary action;

c) permitting the liquid material to solidify thereby increasing the stiffness of the impregnated length of wire strand~~cable~~ and thereby forming the composite cable.

17. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 16 wherein the cable is metal and wherein the liquid material is a molten solder.

18. (Currently amended) The method as defined in Claim 16 wherein the cable is metal and wherein the liquid material is one of a) ~~, or~~ an alloy ~~of~~ comprising molten tin, lead, silver, bismuth, copper, antimony ~~and~~ or selenium, ~~and~~ b) a resins, and c) ~~or~~ an epoxy~~epoxies~~.

19. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 16 wherein the step of impregnating the cable includes dipping the cable in the liquid material.

20. (Currently amended) The method as defined in Claim 16 wherein the step of impregnating the cable includes spraying the liquid material onto the cable and permitting the liquid material to flow into the inter-wire spaces.

21. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 16 including the step of pre-treating the cable prior to the step of impregnating.

22. (Currently amended) The method as defined in Claim ~~16~~ 21 wherein the step of pre-treating includes the step of applying flux to the cable.

23. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 16 including the step of forming the cable into a desired shape prior to impregnating.

24. – 25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The system as defined in Claim 1 wherein the stiffening means includes a solder that spreads through intra-wire spaces in the cable and which covers the wires via capillary and wherein the solder is pliable within a temperature range of –40 degrees F and 120 degrees F.